

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL**

**Historic Preservation Council
December 3, 2014
Department of Economic and Community Development
One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Chair Nelson, Ms. Gilvarg, Ms. Maher, Dr. Faber, Ms. Cutler, Ms. Kane, Dr. Jones

ABSENT: Dr. Harris, Dr. Woodward

STAFF: Daniel Forrest, Julie Carmelich, Laura Mancuso, Todd Levine, Jenny Scofield, Karin Peterson, Cathy Labadia

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:39 am.

2. REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES

Chair Nelson reviewed the public comment procedures.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair Nelson read the code of conduct and ethics statement. The following conflict of interest was reported:

Kathleen Maher

Item: 9C4 Historic Town Green, Fairfield: Landscape study

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Dr. Jones was made to approve the minutes of November 5, 2014.

(Y-4; N-0; Abstain: Chair Nelson, Ms. Gilvarg, Dr. Faber)

5. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Ms. Maher reported that the sub-committee for statute change met on November 21st 2014 via telephone conference. The Community Investment Act (CIA) was the main intention of the conversation. The idea of

reviewing the HPC statute language was to clarify the Council's role relative to allocation of CIA funds. With regard to Statutory changes the intent of the review is to make sure that what we do to potentially strengthen the language of the statute does not in fact cause exposure and vulnerability of what currently exists in the statute.

In light of the concern about possible unanticipated change to the statute, should it reopened, the subcommittee agreed that formal clarification of ambiguous items through formally articulated policy would be a better direction at the present time.

The sub-committee will write up the formal recommendations for policy clarification, as well as formalize recommendations for statutory change for a future time when the statutes are reopened.

6. **NOMINATIONS TO THE STATE REGISTER**

A. **Review of "Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Twentieth-century Connecticut" – discussion only**

Context Statement and Criteria for nominations for "Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Twentieth-century Connecticut," a multiple-resource thematic nomination to the State Register of Historic Places

The Historic Preservation Council votes to list the "Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Twentieth-century Connecticut" Multiple Property Documentation Form and Context Statement on the State Register of Historic Places.

Kristin Nerring, from the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, presented a brief overview of the project which includes identification and listing of places associated with modern artistic or literary endeavor in the period between 1913 (the armory show) and the 1970s. The project includes focus on 8 major themes – CT as a place of artistic refuge, urban cultural centers, art colonies, public art, Fairfield County, post WWII patronage, children's literature and nature. Council asked for clarification if the project includes music/dance/screenwriting as well as visual and literary arts and the program does not. Council also asked if the project will make an effort to be inclusive of the contributions of women and people of color?

B. **Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Twentieth-century Connecticut**

Motion by Ms. Maher, seconded by Ms. Kane

State Register Nomination for the "Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Twentieth-century Connecticut," Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2 Sites (as shown below).

The Historic Preservation Council votes to list the “Creative Places: Modern Arts and Letters in Twentieth-century Connecticut,” Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2 Sites (as shown below) on the State Register of Historic Places.

- 1. Chapman Farmstead/William Kent House and Barn-Studio, 269 Howd Road, Durham**
- 2. Peace Sanctuary/Mary L. Jobe Akeley House, 233 River Road, Groton (Mystic)**

Charlotte Hitchcock from the CT Trust provided background for the nomination.

Jenny Scofield, SHPO State and National Register coordinator, made a recommendation to Council / CT Trust with regard to the State Register listings: to make sure that the nominations had legally defensible contexts. She caution that this may require emphasizing property types and selection.

(Y-6; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

7. HISTORIC DISTRICTS/PROPERTIES

8. PROGRAMS: REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

9. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS

A. **Historic Restoration Fund**

- 1. Grant update:** Laura Mancuso reported that 15 Historic Restoration Fund (HRF) applications have been received with a total request of a little over \$2,000,000. Two of the applications were deemed ineligible: Town of Hamden Economic Development Corporation and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hartford. The remaining 13 applications are currently being reviewed for deficiencies. Council members have been given access in fluid review to review applications. There are separate items that have been dropped in the drop box for next month of supplemental information for these applications.
- 2. Review of sub-committee assignments:** Chair Nelson sent a spreadsheet as a first attempt to setup review committees for each of the grant applications. Chair Nelson suggested that one person be assigned as the lead organizer and will be in charge of setting up conference calls, etc. While each sub-committee is assigned with in-depth review of a particular application, all Council members should be familiar with the general nature of all HRF applications. The best document for general overview is the actual application itself.

B. Endangered Properties Fund

C. **Certified Local Government Grants**

1. **Stanton House, Clinton**

Motion by Ms. Maher, seconded by Ms. Cutler

The Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown.

All Grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommends the application for funding.

**Applicant: Town of Clinton, CT
Project: Stanton House Historic Structures Report and Stewardship Study
Amount: \$30,000.00**

Meghan Stein, President of the Clinton Historical Society and a member of the Clinton Local Historic District Commission spoke on behalf of this application.

(Y-6; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

2. **Academy Building, Clinton**

Motion by Ms. Gilvarg, seconded by Ms. Maher

The Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, funded by the US Department of the Interior Historic Preservation Fund, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown.

All Grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommends the application for funding.

**Applicant: Town of Clinton, CT
Project: The Academy Building Feasibility Study
Amount: \$10,000.00**

(Y-6; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

3. Berlin Free Library, Berlin

Motion by Dr. Faber, seconded by Dr. Jones

The Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, funded by the US Department of the Interior Historic Preservation Fund, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown.

All Grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommends the application for funding.

**Applicant: Town of Berlin, CT
Project: Condition Assessment of the belfry on the Berlin Free Library
Amount: \$10,000.00**

(Y-6; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

4. Historic Town Green, Fairfield

Ms. Maher leaves the room at 10:57 am.

Motion by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Dr. Faber

The Historic Preservation Council votes to recommend the award of a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, funded by the US Department of the Interior Historic Preservation Fund, to the below-listed applicant in the amount shown.

All Grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the below-listed applicant upon receipt of a grant administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. Staff recommends the application for funding.

**Applicant: Town of Fairfield, CT
Project: Landscape Study of Fairfield's Historic Town Green
Amount: \$10,000.00**

Dr. Jones recommended an archeological assessment (Phase 1) be conducted

(Y-5; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

Ms. Maher returns to the room at 11:02 am.

F. Partners in Preservation Grant

1. Merritt Parkway Conservancy

Motion by Ms. Kane, seconded by Dr. Jones.

Since all grant application requirements have been met by the applicant, and staff recommends the project, the Historic Preservation Council votes to approve a Partners in Preservation Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

**Applicant: Merritt Parkway Conservancy
Project: "IDrive: The Merritt Parkway App"
Grant: \$5,500.00**

All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the applicant upon receipt of the grant award.

Jill Smith or the Merritt Parkway Conservancy spoke on behalf of this application.

(Y-6; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

2. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation

Motion by Ms. Maher, seconded by Dr. Faber

Since all grant application requirements have been met by the applicant, and staff recommends the project, the Historic Preservation Council votes to approve a Partners in Preservation Grant, funded by the Community Investment Act and administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development

**Applicant: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
Project: Pre-Development Re-Grant Program
Grant: \$520,000.00**

All grant guidelines and state requirements shall be met by the applicant upon receipt of the grant award.

(Y-6; N-0; Abstained: Chair Nelson)

10. THREATENED PROPERTIES UPDATE

11. PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS

12. ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVES

13. REPORT ON MUSEUM PROPERTIES

Please refer to Report on Museums submitted by Karin Peterson.

14. REPORT ON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Dan Forrest introduced and welcomed Jenny Scofield as SHPO's new State and National Register Coordinator.

Dan reported that the State Historic Preservation Board – the entity responsible for National Register listing review with the staff – is working with staff and counterparts to develop new guidelines for National Register eligibility for sacred sites. The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes will be invited to talk to the Board/staff about tribal perspectives for sacred sites and the identification of the concerns inherent with listing. Additionally the Preservation Board/staff will work with the National Park Service to clarify issues around eligibility.

It was noted that the State Register does not have well developed guidelines for sacred sites. The State Register guidelines will need to be reviewed and linked to the updated National Register guidelines.

On January 5th, 2015, SHPO staff will have on board a durational project manager (DPM) for the Hurricane Sandy Programs. The second DPM is still not a 100% percent committed yet and so there is still a possibility there might be a slight delay.

DECD/SHPO is very close to issuing six grants for important restoration under Sandy program which is over a \$1,000,000 of funding. The majority of that funding will go to the town of Milford.

On December 15th, HPC members have been invited to a conversation with DECD's Advisory Committee about how the agency is moving forward in supporting Creative Placemaking statewide. A number of the agency's conversations that have been organized through the Power of Place convenings and the creation of task teams based on specific topics, have been looking at a variety of different concepts and initiatives to help identify why Connecticut is such an amazing place to visit and live.

There are two discussions that are developing into specific proposals:

1. How to succeed economically without losing our soul? What types of communities would make a good pilot for doing a combined multiple stream funding? Will it have the impact we want? Does it make sense to stitch together the various programs that DECD manages? Do we define a new program that specifically set for that purpose?
2. How do we surface and understand local community from a different perspective i.e. the knowledge of the local residents expressed in an authentic manner? This discussion has developed into a number of proposals and a key partner in these discussions has been Connecticut Public Media in how they can help tell these types of stories.

How will these ideas come together will be one of the topics presented at the December 15th meeting. This is the concept that we are trying to navigate in how we will provide financial support so this initiative can get off the ground.

Kip Bergstrom stated that the Advisory Committee is hoping that HPC will provide the seed funding for CT Public Media through the CIA funds as well as CT Humanities funding through partners in preservation grant. DECD will then seek additional funding in the statewide marketing fund after July. We want to reveal the amazing stories of our places which are mainly its history.

This is another evolution in the consideration for how the preservation dollars go to support creative placemaking.

The CT Humanities anticipates submitting an application on behalf of Connecticut Public Media which will then be distributed to HPC for review and comments. The intended funding period is for January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015.

Dan expanded on the discussions concerning the CT Public Media proposal, including the potential for CT Public Media to be made a “statutory partner”, like the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, through amendment to DECD’s statutes. Council discussed with Dan and Kip the rationale for this potential change, which was primarily intended to address the agency’s ability to provided large grants to a single organization which do not fit under any existing DECD/SHPO grant programs. Dan and Kip further discussed the need to understand how the relationship between the agency and CPM would be structured and the potential risks of proposing amendments to our preservation statutes given the HPC’s reservations concerning unintended amendments. Kip and Dan stated that further discussions, both internal and with HPC, would be needed to explore DECD’s existing options prior to further consideration of statutory changes.

Dan discussed with the Council state bond funds authorized for DECD to provide grants to non-profits who sponsor historic or cultural sites. The Advisory Committee has been actively engaged in discussions of how the available funds might be best used. Roughly half of the \$10 million authorization has already been allocated for work at a range of large cultural institutions. Kip stated that the agency’s intent was to support a range of strong projects with the remaining funds which would help justify future bond authorizations. Small to

medium sized organizations have had limited access to this type of funding, and this is an opportunity to address locally significant places. DECD believes that a streamlined selection process and relatively quick action is warranted to show positive results.

Dan handed to the members and discussed a budget report of revenue from SHPO's CIA allocation for FY13 & FY14.

15. GENERAL DISCUSSION

16. LIAISON WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AGENCIES

17. OLD BUSINESS

18. NEW BUSINESS

19. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Cutler, seconded by Ms. Kane.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm. The next Historic Preservation Council meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2015 at 9:30 am, One Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CT.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lourdes Rivera
Administrative Assistant